

Amendment to the Specification

[0017] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a mandrel 50 upon which coping 30 has been formed. The mandrel 50 may for example be a die stone that has been formed from an impression of the tooth stub 40, not shown in this figure. The coping has been formed by physical vapor deposition (PVD), such as cathodic arc deposition, sputtering, ion beam deposition, molecular beam deposition, etc. The mandrel in this embodiment has a handle portion 52 that is slightly recessed compared to the tooth stub portion upon which the coping is formed. In other embodiments the handle portion may not be recessed but may instead be even with or wider than the tooth stub portion. The handle portion is held by clamps 58 which each have a projection 55 that extends adjacent the coping beyond the handle region. The projections 55 provide a shadow during PVD that tapers and terminates ends 60 of the coping 30. Similar projections 160 are shown in FIG. 4.